The EU and Mediterranean Migration: when politics (un)makes policy

Stefania Panebianco

Jean Monnet Professor, University of Catania
TACKLING THE MIGRANT WAVE: THE EU AS A CRISIS MANAGER IN DISTRESS

- Migration Crisis or Age of migration: figures
- Local and Global causes
- Migration crisis or EU crisis
- Different EU approaches/discourses to tackle migration
- The politicization of migration
- Quo vadis Europa?
MEDITERRANEAN MIGRATION IN FIGURES (TREND 2014-2018)

Mediterranean arrivals include sea arrivals to Italy, Cyprus and Malta, and both sea and land arrivals to Greece and Spain.

Source: Mediterranean Migration Portal, UNHCR
ARRIVALS/DEAD AND MISSING PER COUNTRY/ROUTE

Source: Mediterranean Migration Portal, UNHCR
MULTIPLE CAUSES: MIGRATION PUSH FACTORS

- Climate Change
- Wars
- Demographic Pressure
- Structural Poverty
- Violations of Individual Freedom, Religion, Sexual Orientations...
MIGRATION AS A TRANS-BOUNDARY ISSUE
The capacities of the EUMS to control EU borders and accommodate new migrants have been overstrained.

European public opinion perceives immigration into the EU more as a problem (38%) than an opportunity (20%) or both (31%) (EBS on Integration of immigrants in the EU n. 469/2018).

Migration is a salient issue: immigration is the most important issue the EU is currently facing; mentioned twice as often as terrorism.
EUROBAROMETER 90, Autumn 2018

QA5  What do you think are the two most important issues facing the EU at the moment?

(%) - EU

2 answers maximum – 6 most mentioned items
European public opinion requests the intervention of EU/domestic institutions’ to provide borders’ protection (including a common European policy on migration) (EB 90, Autumn 2018)

Europeans fear a ‘migrants’ invasion’: there is a misperception of legal migrants present in the EU, they are perceived as double in number (EB 469/2018)

Rise of euro-sceptic right-wing populist parties such as the French Front National, UKIP in UK, the German AfD, Lega in Italy
EUROBAROMETER 90, Autumn 2018

QA15 What is your opinion on each of the following statements? Please tell me for each statement, whether you are for it or against it. (% - EU)

- The free movement of EU citizens who can live, work, study and do business anywhere in the EU
  - Autumn 2018: For 83, Against 13, Don't know/Refusal 4
  - Spring 2018: For 82, Against 14, Don't know/Refusal 4

- A common defence and security policy among EU member states
  - Autumn 2018: For 76, Against 18, Don't know/Refusal 6
  - Spring 2018: For 75, Against 18, Don't know/Refusal 7

- A common energy policy among EU member states
  - Autumn 2018: For 74, Against 18, Don't know/Refusal 8
  - Spring 2018: For 73, Against 18, Don't know/Refusal 9

- The EU's common trade policy
  - Autumn 2018: For 71, Against 20, Don't know/Refusal 9
  - Spring 2018: For 71, Against 20, Don't know/Refusal 9

- A common European policy on migration
  - Autumn 2018: For 69, Against 24, Don't know/Refusal 7
  - Spring 2018: For 68, Against 25, Don't know/Refusal 7

- A common foreign policy of the 28 member states of the EU
  - Autumn 2018: For 65, Against 26, Don't know/Refusal 9
  - Spring 2018: For 66, Against 25, Don't know/Refusal 9

- A Digital single market within the EU
  - Autumn 2018: For 63, Against 20, Don't know/Refusal 17
  - Spring 2018: For 62, Against 21, Don't know/Refusal 17

- A European economic and monetary union with one single currency, the Euro
  - Autumn 2018: For 62, Against 32, Don't know/Refusal 6
  - Spring 2018: For 61, Against 32, Don't know/Refusal 7

- Further enlargement of the EU to include other countries in future years
  - Autumn 2018: For 43, Against 45, Don't know/Refusal 12
  - Spring 2018: For 44, Against 46, Don't know/Refusal 10
SPECIAL EUROBAROMETER 469, Integration of immigrants in the European Union, 2018
WHEN MIGRATION BECOMES A ‘HOT TOPIC’

- Rising of Populist parties
- Nationalism
- EUMS as veto-powers

POLITICS UNMAKES MIGRATION POLICY
QUO VADIS EUROPA?

Shared ideas and interests
Common values
Common policies

Schengen area
Euro-zone
Enhanced co-operation

EU
BREXIT
EXITS
THANKS!
MERCI!
DANKE!
GRAZIE!
DZIĘKI!